

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A fiber material having improved malodor scavenging properties, the fiber material comprising:

(a) fibers; and

(b) dispersed within the fibers, an effective malodor scavenging amount of at least one of (i) particles of zinc, wherein the amount of particles of zinc in the fiber material is in a range from about 0.015 to 1 wt.-%, based on the fiber material, and wherein the particles of zinc are essentially free of corresponding oxides and the particles of zinc are nanosized particles having an average diameter in a range of 40 to 250 nm and (ii) a cyclodextrin material, wherein the cyclodextrin is free of an inclusion complex compound and the cyclodextrin comprises an α -cyclodextrin, a β -cyclodextrin, a γ -cyclodextrin or mixtures thereof, having pendant moieties or substituents that render the cyclodextrin compatible with the fiber material, wherein the malodor scavenging amount is physically mixed into a batch to be manufactured into the fibers of the fiber material by extrusion, the cyclodextrin comprising at least one substituent having an alkyl ester group.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The material of claim 1, wherein the particles of zinc are nanosized particles having an average diameter in a range of 60 to 150 nm.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) The material of claim 1, wherein the amount of particles of zinc in the fiber material is in the range from about 0.015 to 0.20 wt.-%, based on the fiber material.

8. (Original) The material of claim 1, wherein the fiber material is a thermoplastic material.

9. (Original) The material of claim 8, wherein the thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of polyolefines, polyester, polyamides, ethylene-vinylalcohol-copolymers, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers, polystyrene, polystyrene copolymers, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, (vinyl chloride-co-vinyl acetate) copolymers, polyether ketones and mixtures thereof.

10. (Original) The material of claims 8, wherein the thermoplastic material is a polypropylene.

11. (Previously presented) The material of claim 1, wherein the amount of cyclodextrin material in the fiber material is in a range from about 0.01 to 5 wt-% based on the fiber material.

12. (Original) The material of claim 1, wherein the cyclodextrin material has at least a low moisture content of about 1 wt.-%, based on the cyclodextrin material.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) The material of claim 1[[3]], wherein the substituents having the alkyl ester group comprise at least one moiety selected from the group consisting of acetyl moieties, propyl moieties, butyl moieties and maleated polyethylene having a -(CH₂)_n-chain wherein n = 8 to 15,000.

15-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) The material of claim 1, wherein the material has fibers selected from the group consisting of meltblown fibers, spunbonded fibers, electrospun fibers and combinations thereof.

18. (Previously presented) The material of claim 1, wherein the particles of zinc and/or the cyclodextrin material are uniformly dispersed in the fibers.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a material according to claim 1, the method comprising the following steps:

a) physically mixing the particles of zinc or similar reacting metal or metal alloy and/or the cyclodextrin material into the material to be manufactured into fibers.

b) producing fibers from the material obtained in step a).

21. (Withdrawn) Method of claim 20, wherein the particles of zinc or similar reacting metal or metal alloy to be added to the fiber material are dispersed in a mineral oil.

22. (Original) Hygienic article comprising a fiber material according to claim 1.

23. (Original) Hygienic article according to claim 22, wherein the article is a disposable diaper.

24. (Previously presented) Hygienic article according to claim 23, wherein at least one of a facing layer and an absorbent layer of the disposable diaper comprises the fiber material having improved malodor scavenging properties.

25. (Previously presented) The material of claim 1, wherein the amount of cyclodextrin material in the fiber material is in a range from about 0.1 to 1 wt-%, based on the fiber material.

26. (Cancelled)